

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8134

UNCLAS LAGOS 01829

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, US

SUBJ: TRADE COMPLAINT: LIDA TEXTILE COMPANY

REF: (A) STATE 027420

(B) LAGOS 10366

(C) LAGOS 8091

1. INA FEBRUARY 21 LETTER CENTRAL BANK EXCHANGE CONTROLLER INFORMED EMBASSY OF BANKS READINESS TO RELEASE FOREIGN EXCHANGE ONCE IT RECEIVES POLICE ADVICE THAT LASKY WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE FRAUD CASE WHICH IS STILL PENDING AGAINST A.K.KADIRI AND SONS. BANK ALSO INFORMED US THE FEDERAL REVENUE COURT CASE AGAINST KADIRI WAS ADJOURNED ON SEPT. 4, 1974 REPORTEDLY DUE TO FAILURE OF LASKY TO APPEAR IN COURT TO TESTIFY AS REQUESTED BY THE POLICE.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT TELCON WITH THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, CRIMINAL DIVISION, NIGERIA POLICE, WHO WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH LASKYS PROBLEM, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT LASKY HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO TESTIFY PERSONALLY LAST SEPT. BUT THAT IN A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION HE HAD REFUSED. POLICE SAY LASKY HAS PUT IN WRITING THAT THE FORGED DOCUMENTS INVOLVED IN THE KADIRI CASE ARE NOT HIS BUT THAT FOR SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF CASE IT WOULD HELP IF HE TESTIFIES IN PERSON. POLICE CLAIM LASKY IS ABSOLUTELY UNDER NO SUSPICION HIMSELF, THAT COURT PROCEEDINGS COULD BE CLEARED UP IN TWO OR THREE DAYS IF HE CAME TO NIGERIA AND THAT ONCE COURT PROCEEDINGS WRAPPED UP PERMISSION WOULD BE GIVEN TO

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CENTRAL BANK TO RELEASE FOREIGN EXCHANGE. MOREOVER, POLICE

SAY THEY WILL PAY LASKYS AIR FARE AND ALL EXPENSES WHILE
HERE IF HE RETURNS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS APPARENT THAT AT SAME TIME AS LASKY HAS
ASKED FOR COMMERCE/EMBASSY ASSISTANCE, HE HAS BEEN DOING
SOME DEALING ON HIS OWN. BALL NOW SEEMS TO BE IN HIS COURT.
POLICE DID NOT SAY HE WOULD NOT GET MONEY IF HE FAILED RETURN
TO NIGERIA, ONLY THAT IT WOULD TAKE LONGER. THIS IS
OBVIOUSLY A DECISION FOR HIM TO MAKE. HOWEVER, BELIEVE
EMBASSY HAS TAKEN THIS ONE ABOUT AS FAR AS IT CAN AND IN
ABSENCE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WE PLAN NO FURTHER ACTION. FOR
OUR INFORMATION, HOWEVER, WOULD APPRECIATE NAME OF LASKYS
ATTORNEY IN LAGOS, IF HE HAS ONE.
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